

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM : Mr.Kurgvel 7 February 1957
TO : WHOM IT MAY CONCERN No:9.
THROUGH []
SUBJECT : Security Clearance for a Personal Letter,in connection with the intention to join the Armed Forces.

1. I have the intention to send a letter to the Department of Defense, exploring the possibilities of my entering the U.S. Armed Forces as an estonian officer and citizen. A draft of this letter is hereby submitted for security clearance, A quick decision on this matter is much appreciated.

2. Please inform me WHOM I can mention in this connection as a reference from my present employing authority: the name, official address, and telephone.

3. The submitted draft is self-explanatory. The idea and the wish of mine, to enter the U.S.Armed Forces, are not new. They are well known to this Agency (ref.:my report to Capt. Jackson, of 7 March,1954).

The reason for this attempted change is the progressively growing dissatisfaction with:

- a. my assignment,
- b. my status, and the ensuing treatment, and
- c. the remuneration.

I feel that I am qualified and able to work more, and on a higher level than I am asked to do here. My aim is to do a hearty work, because there would be no help against the Communists, if the work in any branch of the Anti-communist work is being done "somehow" only, and if everybody's capacities are not used to the full extent. I have the impression that this Agency does not need, or can not use me according to this pattern.

An organization whose work requires special limitation of its employees' normal liberties and outside activities; an organization which must request immaculate trustworthiness, should care therefore that its employees were duly rewarded for their particular work, and that they, thus, were happy. Or, - the organization should see that an employee were wisely discharged, when his work is not used any longer, or if he does not measure up to the required standards. It seems that in my case there is not enough attention been given to this matter. I am employed in my learned and experienced field of work. However, I am earning much less than those of my "less fortunate"

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mates who had to start here, in the United States, on fields of work fully unknown to them earlier.

In order to remain fit for his work, a man must be able to maintain a standard of life becoming to his age and social standing. My remuneration does not allow me this. It even does not allow me to maintain the very modest standard of life which I find myself indulged to give my family. I have no capitals to be invested so I could live on interests. Nor am I allowed to earn additional money on the side. I really have had to pull and to hold together all my power of will, so not to yield to the load pulling me down.

I am trying to put and to hold some moral principles above the materialistic conveniences. Therefore, remembering the promise which I gave when entering this job (ref.: "Base of Work", filed by me in Germany, on 15 Oct. 1951), - to stay on so long my help will be needed -, I have tolerated this situation for years, as I have been told that I am still needed. However, the burden has grown so heavy that to remain in this situation any longer, without trying to ameliorate it, would be wrong and dishonest towards my family, myself, and thus, towards my present employer also, as the situation deteriorates my ability to work efficiently.

A few hundred dollar rise in pay would not solve the problem. The "ideals" alone do not provide, and do not help to build up the necessary security for old age, which is not too far away in my case.

I am sure that the Armed Forces have plenty of fields of work where I could be of good help. Also, I hope that there will be found ways to settle the legal, financial and social problems to mutual satisfaction of both parties. Perhaps, I think, there would be even some help for this Agency of my joining the Forces, - in the sense as explained in my report No: 43-55/56 of 21 Aug. 1956: "Some Proposals..."

I am not a "quitter" by my nature, or I would have left years ago. I think that I shall never quit to work against the Communist menace and peril. If not needed, or if not employable in a satisfactory way by this Agency or the Forces, I shall see how to earn the necessary living in private life, and to continue the anti-communist work also, as I still feel that it is my duty to continue this, despite the difficulties.

Respectfully yours:

A. Kurgvel

ENCLOSED: on 4 sheets.

DRAFT

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FROM : Mr. Aleksei KURGVEL
1706 25-th Str. S.E.
Washington, D.C.

.. February 1957

TO :
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D.C.

SUBJECT: Estonian officer to join U.S. Armed Forces.

Sir:

I am an Estonian, professional commissioned officer, 52 years of age. I came to the United States in February, 1953. I am employed by the U.S. Government as a civilian under field contract since 1951.

I wish to join the U.S. Armed Forces as an Estonian officer. Please give this matter your competent consideration, and inform me whether, and on which conditions, this is possible.

In making my request I am guided by the following thoughts:

1. Positively applied nationalism, as an antidote to negatively Communist internationalism, will be of decisive importance in today's "cold war" of nations against international Communism. Its role will be particularly important if the struggle has to be won without letting it go so "hot" that it would annihilate everybody. Therefore, the leaders of this struggle must have in readiness a number of competent liaison officers whom both sides can trust: the high leaders of the common action, and the nations which now are under Communist yoke. It is evident, and psychologically founded, that the best work in this field can be done by such former officers of these nations who have not collaborated with Communists, have not been under Communist control, and who have retained their old, national citizenship. Such officers, when duly recognized as allied officers by military authorities of their present countries of residence, will be of good help to the planners during the preparatory period, and trusted leaders or liaison officers to their nations during the decisive period of action.

2. I came to this country with the aim to participate in this anti-communist struggle to the best of my abilities and knowledge.

Taking into consideration the present state of this struggle, I find that now there should be more and better use for me as a recognized officer of an allied nation and state, i.e. Estonia,

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than there is and will be for me as "just one more alien", or as a shortly naturalized American, which, in best case, will be my position if remaining in my present job.

I have never collaborated or worked with the Communists, under their control; I have worked against them since 1940. The American Authorities must have had checked thoroughly, and found everything in order, or I would not have been held for so long in my present position. I refused German citizenship when this was offered me. I am not yet entitled to apply for American citizenship. I have received the best military education Estonia could give. I have tried to stay informed about the developments in my country. Thus, both sides should have reason to trust me, and doing so, to gain something by using me in the above mentioned situation.

3. According to p.6 of the "treaty between the United States and Estonia - Friendship, Commerce and Consular Rights", of 1923, Estonian citizens, when in the United States, are obliged to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces in time of war.

Estonia is at war with the Soviet Union, occupied by it. The United States, being aware of this, has not approved the Soviet domination of Estonia, and continues to recognize Estonia as a Republic.

The United States is engaged in war against the Soviet Union and other more Communist powers. This war, although designated as being "cold", including its necessary preparations for the feared future "Hot" period, is so hard, that the present situation can not be termed to be "normal" for Peace Time. This is actually "war time", much harder than the legislators could have imagined the "time of war" to be, when they ratified the above mentioned treaty.

Thus, both parties to this treaty being "at war", point 6 of the Treaty could be used as legal basis for my service in the U.S. Armed Forces, if there is no better basis for this.

4. My advanced age should not be considered a disqualifying factor regarding present situation: it is normal when remembering that Communist rule started in Estonia over 16 years ago. In the free world there are not too many Estonian officers who were much younger than I am, and who still were Estonian citizens, and thus, could be helpful because of these particular qualifications.

Respectfully yours

Aleksei Kurgvel.

ENCLOSED: A summary of my Personal Record,
on two sheets.

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Condensed Personal Data List.

Name: KURGVEL, Aleksei, nmn.
Born: at KURESSAARE, Estonia, on 13 Sept. 1904.
Entered the United States on 26 Feb. 1953.
Citizenship and Nationality: Estonian.
Health: good; size: 5'8"; weight: approx. 165 lbs.
Family: Wife Salme Kurgvel, born Epler, 48, and son Rein, 17, both in U.S. since Jan. 1952; live in New York, N.Y.; Estonians. Son Jaan, 26, M.S., U.S. citizen (entered the States in Sept. 1950), presently serving with the U.S. Army.
Other relatives: None in the U.S.
Two sisters in Sweden: Ksenia KURGVEL, 57, recently acquired the Swedish citizenship; clerk in an insurance company. Nadezhda MARIPUU, born KURGVEL, 47, widow, with one son and two daughters, all adults, Estonian citizenship. Possibly still alive in Soviet Estonia, or deported from there; sister Olga KURGVEL, 58.
Education: 1911-1923, in Kuressaare - general education: elementary and "Gümnaasium". Graduated.
1923-1926, in Tallinn: Military Academy, Technical Branch. Graduated.
1929-1932, in Tallinn: Higher War College. Graduated with the qualification: "K.S. diploma".
1943-1944, part time study at the University of Tartu, Department of Economics.
Military record:
1923, August: Entered Estonian Army, accepted to Military Academy, Technical Branch.
1926, February: Promoted Junior (2nd) Lieutenant.
1926-1929: in the Signal Battalion in Tallinn, and with the H.Q., 1st Division, in Narva: Signal Officer.
1929, February: Promoted Lieutenant.
1929-1932: attending Higher War College.
1932-1933: at Tallinn, in G1 (Operations).
1933-1934: at Rakvere, H.Q., 1st Division: deputy Chief of Operations.
1934, February: Promoted Captain.
1934-1940: at Tallinn, in G 2 (Information and Intelligence): Last position: Chief, Section "A" (general information, foreign relations, intelligence: West).
1940, July: Removed from G 2 ordered by the Soviets (while refused to act as a Soviet spy). Escaped to Germany.
1940-1941: in Berlin, "I.G. Farben Industrie". Industrial intelligence research work: Soviet Union. Simultaneously: agent spotting for liberation of Estonia (assignment of German Mil. Intellig.)

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Condensed Personal Data List: KURGVEL, A. Page 2.

- 1941-1944: In Finland, later in Estonia, in quality of a Finnish Captain-volunteer, detached to the German Mil. Intelligence. Activities: agent training; planning and supervision of clandestine communications; ciphers and special codes. Target countries: Estonia, up to its liberation in 1941, later: the North-European part of the Soviet Union.
- 1944, Aug./Sept., after having left the Finnish Army before the Finnish-Soviet armistice: - Estonian Liaison Officer to the German Army High Command in Estonia, up to the withdrawal of the German forces from the Estonian mainland.
- 1944-1945: With the German Mil. Intelligence, in Germany. Target country: Estonia, for its liberation.
- 1945-1946: POW of the British, in Germany. Cleared and released by the help of the British Mil. Intell. Service.

Later employment:

- 1946-1949: successively clerk-interpreter and office manager in three Displaced Persons' Camps in W. Germany, and elected member of the camp committees.
- 1949-1951: Clerk with the International Refugee Organization, U.S. Resettlement and Immigration Center, Werndorf, W. Germany. Simultaneously, for a few months, working for the British Mil. Intelligence: interviewing German ex-POWs returning from Soviet Union, and interviewing Estonian defectors.
- 1951- up to date: consultant-interpreter with the U.S. Government, since March 1953 in Washington, D.C.

Knowledge of languages: in order of fluency:

Estonian	-	native, fluent.
Russian	-	fluent,
German	-	fluent,
English	-	fluent,
French	-	reading fluent, writing and speaking satisfactory: no recent practice.
Finnish	-	fair " " "
Polish	-	" " " "